

THE
TERRIBLE AND
deserued death of Francis
RAVILLIACK, SHEWING THE MAN-
ner of his strange torments at his Execution, vpon Fri-
day the 25. of May last past, for the murther of
the late French King Henry the
Fourth.

TOGETHER WITH AN ABSTRACT OF
divers proclamations, and Edicts, now con-
cerning the state of France.

As it was printed in French in three severall
Booke published by authority.



EDINBURGH

Printed by Robert Chantler,

1610.

The true maner of the strange execution of Francis Rassiliack (for the late murther of the French King, Henry the fourth) who was tormented to death, vpon a scaffould in the Cittie of Paris the 25. of May last. 1610.

HE most inhumane murther late-
ly committed vpon the person of
the late French King; Henry the
fourth of famous memory, hath
much disquieted the state of Frâce
& so basid other kingdome, in
hunting after the true reports ther-
of, so farre forth, that we thinke it
an interious loue to our countrmen to haue an abstracte
of the most occurences that happened since that vnnaturall
accident: and first to begin with the viperous hoyni-
cide the bloody actor of this deede, who stroue with the
eauy of his heart, to draw in peeces the bowels that cher-
ished his life, (florishing France I meane) that prooues
abortive in bringing forth such an vnnaturall Frenchman

This paracide, Francis Rassiliack, in time past of the or-
der of the Felician fryers, but of late a practitioner in the
law (by some named a pettifogger) born in the town of
Angolesme, a place not farre distant from the City of Paris,
who after hee had vnluckely accomplished this bloody
stragem, by taking away the preseruer of so many liues,
was vpon the 25. of May last, arraigned, convicted, and
condemned by due order of law, in the great Court and
chamber of Turenne in Paris, before all the assemblies,
Presidents, Councillors, & commissioners, at the request
of Du Viquit, Attwhey, generall to the King, whose place
& authority was there therto inquire against this Francis
Rassiliack.

Rauillac for the further of his late soueraigne, Henry the fourth King of France & Navarre, wherupon this Francis Rauillac, with a sad and death like countenance holding vp his guilty hand before this greate assamble, presentely confessed guilty, and that he became his countries shame, only by the instigation of the devil, and none any other accomplices, & confederates would he reniale but in a satanical manner vowed himselfe to secrecie, wherupon the law proceeded, & a most terrible sentence of death pronounced against him there, according to a generall decree of that great court of parliament, and so being a condemned villaine was with a strong gard of armed men conuoyed to prison, otherwise by the violent rage of the comyns people, hee had beene torn in peeces such was the loue they bore to their late King.

Vpon the Fryday following, being the 25. of May (according to their computation) this *Francis Rauillac* was in a most vile and base manner carried to the execution as followeth.

First, (naked in his shirt) he was brought out of the *Concery*, (beeing the prison for the pallace) with a lighted Torch of two pound waight in one hand, and the *knife* (wherwith he killed the king) chained to the other hand so openly to bee seene, that the least child there present might behold it: after this hee was placed standing vp-right in a tumbrell or dungcart, and so from thence, conducted with a gard of *Citizens* to the *Capitall Church* in *Paris*, where being adiudged to doe penance he had bene made a sacrifice to the rage of the rude people, had not there beeene appointed Officers to see his execution preuented it.

After this, being accompanied to the place of execution with two doctors of diuinity, all the way perswading him to save his soule from euerlasting punishment, by revealing and laying open his *Assyociates* therein, which he would not, but stiffly (though vngenerously) tooke the bloody burthen upon his owne shoulders, withstanding,

even to the death, all faire promises whatsoever. In this manner, as I said before, was he caried to the Grecue, being a spacious street, & about the middle of Paris, where was builded a very substantiall scaffold of strong timber, wherupon according to his iudgement he was to be tormented to death. *Do Vppon the Kings Asturay generall* was appointed principall to see the execution; and there so gather (if he could) some further light of this unchristianlike conspiracie.

This here following was the manner of his death: an example of terror made knowne to the world to convert all bloody minded traitors from the like enterprise. At his first comming vpon the scaffold, he crostid himselfe directly ouer the breast, a signe that hee did live and die an obsteinate Papist. Whereupon by the Executioners, he was bound to an Engine of Wood and Iron, made like to a S. Andrewes croffe, according to the fashion of his bo- dy, and then the hand with the knife chaineid to it, (wher- with he slew the king) and halfe the arme was put into an artificiall furnace, then flaming with fife and Brimstone, wherein the knife, his right hand, and halfe the arm adioyning to it, was in most terrible manner consumed, yet no- thing at albe would he confess, but yelled out with such horrible cries as if it had bin a Devil, or some tormented soule in hell: And surely if hells tortures might be felt on earth, it was approued in this mans punishment, & though he deserved to liue more, yet humane nature might in- force vs to pity his distres: After this with tongs & Iron pincers made red hot in the same furnace, the appointed Executioners, pinched & seared the dugs of his breasts, the brawnes of his Armes & thighes, with the calues of his legs, & other fleshy party of his body, cutting out collops of flesh, and burned them before his face; after- ward into the same wounds thus made, they powred seal- ing Oyle, Rosin, Pitch, & Brimstone, melted together, yet would he reueale nothing, but that he did it of himselfe by the instigation of the diuell, & the reason, because the

King

King tollerated two religions in his kingdom: Ochman occasion, that for this cause, one servile slave, should thus quench the great light of France, whose brightness glistened throughe Europe: but to passe further into this strange execution according to the sentence pronounced against him, they put, vpon his Nauell a runde of clay, very hard with a hole in the midst, and into the same hole poured they moultē lead, till it was filled, yet revealed he nothing but cryed out with most horrible roares, even like the dying man tormented in the Brazen Bull of the Tyrant Phalaris. But now to come to the finishing vp of his life, and that the last torture might in seuerity equall the first they caused four strong horses to be brought to tear his body in peeces, & to separate his limbes into four quarters, where being ready to pay his last punishment, he was questioned againe to make known the truth, but he would not, & so died without speaking one word of God or remembraunce the danger of his soule.

But so strongly was his flesh and ioynts knit together, that of long time, these four horses could not dismember him, nor any way teare one ioynt from the other, so that one of the horses fainted, the which a Merchant of the City of Paris perceiving, put to one of his owne, being a horse of exceeding great strengthe, yet notwithstanding for all this, they were constrained to cut the flesh vnder his armes & thighes with a sharp rasoer, by which means his body was the easier torn in peeces: which being done the rage of the people grew so violent, that they snatched the dismembered carcase out of the executioners hands, some beate it in sunder against the groud, others cut it in peeces with kniues, so that there was nothing left but bones, which were brought to the place of execution and there burned to cinders, the ashes whereof was scattered into the wind, as being thought vnworthy of the earths buriall. God in his iustice I will hope in the like manner reward al such as repine at their countreis safety, & desperately attempt to lift their hands against Gods anointed.

The brefes taken of divers Edictes and decrees lately pro-
claimed in France in this place.

LE WES the thirteenth by the grace of God, King of France
and Navarre to all: is lowing subiects, health.

Whereas the inhumane murther of our late deceased
Father, Henry the fourth of famous memory, is as farre as
Law and Justice can reach vnto, reuenged vpon the bo-
dy of that parricide *Francis Rauaillac*, whose death suffi-
ciently witnesseth, and now standes registered an example
of severity in such a cause, yet nature and duty bindeth vs
to ad this further vnto it: we therefore by the advise of
our fourre Courts of Parliament, the Lords therof, spiritu-
all & temporal, that all the lands, goods, goods, & cat-
tels late belonging to the aforesaid traytor *Francis Rauaill-
ac*, shal be confiscate to our vse, & also the house in An-
goleme, wherein he was borne, to be vitterly ruined, &
be conuerted into a common lestaile & in the same place
neuer any more house to be built: Also we by our autho-
rity, do decree and command, that the Father & Mother
of the said *Francis Rauaillac*, bee for euer banished our
Kingdom of France, & al the prouinces belonging ther-
unto, not to be seene after the date of seuenteen daies be-
.expired neuer to return vpon paine of hanging: Also we
ordaine, that the vncles, brothers, sisters, & al his kindred
neuer to take vpon the name of *Rauaillac*, but to take
to themselues some other name, vpon the like pain of pu-
nishment, as a name vnworthy of our countre. Al which
we do command to be proclaimed throughout al our pro-
vinces, by the sound of Trumpet, as the order is. For the
prosecution of which busines, we do give ful authority to
du Vicquet, our Attorney Generall. Dated at our Pallace
in Paris the 29. of may 1610. and signed with the greate
seale of yellow wax, by the Lord, POTIER

A brefe of letters patents giuen to the Queen.

LE WES the 13. by the grace of God, King of France, &c Nav-
arre, &c. To our friends and faithfull Commissaries of our
Courts of Parliament of Riam, health:

Loag.

Looking to the necessity of the time, & for the maistrenāce of the state in peace, vpon the miserable accident committed vpon the person of our most royal King & Father, & being in our minority, we do establish & make this good order for the preseruation of our louing subiects, to live in the vnion & concord as they did in the time of our Father, and as by the Council of our Royall Mother, Princes of our blood, other Princes, Prelats, Dukes, Peeres, and Officers of the Crowne, we are transported to this our Parliament of Paris, and being seated in our seate of Iustice, wee doe fully yeelede our whole gouernment to our Mother, to haue care of vs, and protec^t vs till we come to age, not suffering any custome to bee denied; but all things to be performed, & continued in as good force, as they did in our Fathers time to the quiet of our land, & the peace of our louing subiects: giuen at our pa^lace in Paris the 18. of may 1610. and of our raigne the first.

Scene, published and registered in Court by *du Vicquet*, Attorney General, the aforesaid 18. of May, Signed likewise by *de Boyluesque*, Secretary to the Parliament of Roan, and proclaimed in every prouince, that none hereafter shall pretend cause of ignorance.

By the King.

LE^W E^S the 13. by the grace of God King of France & Navarre &c. To all our louing subiects to whom this shall appertaine, be it w^t Since the vnhappy murther of our late Father the Queen our royall mother now regent ouer vs, hauing teares in her eyes and sorrow in her heart, hath not let to w^t with great magnanimity and prouidence for this vnnaturall accident, that it might not be prejudiciale to our person, our Kingdom nor to our subiects, knowing her selfe obliged to that dutie, not only for the naturall affection she beares vs, but being declared Regent, & loaden with the affaires of the kingdom by the wils and authority of the Princes of our blood & others of the Parliament, we leauing of the seate of Iustice, by which meane^s her paines is great and so happy, to our subiects neare vs and our Citry of Paris desiring no dutie to vs, but to our honoured Lady and mother, for which we do not doubt

Count of your willingnes, in so dooing, wee shall give you
thanks with our loue.

Furthermore, considering that in times past in the daies of
our late father, and other Kings his predecessors, that neither
of these two Religions (by vs now tollerated) could not
be weeded out of the Kingdome without much bloodshed;
be it now therefore ordained and likewise we do allow both
the same within all our Province, without any contradiction
as it was in our Fathers time, and the hinderers thereof to
be highly punished.

Given at our Palace in Paris the 22. of May, and signed
with the great seale of yellow wax: Farewell:

Letters Patents of the King concerning the Edict of Nantes;

Vpon the 22. of May there were letters Patents granted,
by proclamation, containing the will and intention of
the King, for the entertainment of the Edict made in Nantes,
concerning articles given to his subjects professing the pre-
tended reformed Religion, published in the Parliament at
Roane the 28. of May. 1610.

Upon Sunday their 27. of May were nine thousand Pro-
testants at Church together very peaceably, God be praised.

The King is continually guarded with two hundred horse,
and his Swiflers, besides the Nobility which mourn greatly.

The Duke de Nevers by advise is returned from the army.

The hundred thousand men promised to the Marques of
Brandenburgh doe remaine as they did before, and all the army
besides are well.

These be the only last and true newes out of France, taken
out of three several books there insprited, the one at Roane
by Martin Mesgiffier Printer ordinary to the King.

Another by Peter Courant according to the copy print-
ed at Paris, by Anthony Vitray, by permission of the court.

And another Printed at Roane by the same man, and now
an abstract of them al turned into English by R. E.

FINIS.

